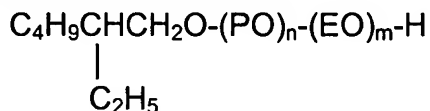


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An alkoxyate mixture, ~~characterized in that~~ it has which comprises at least one alkoxyate of the formula



where PO is a propyleneoxy unit, EO is an ethyleneoxy unit, n has an average value in the range 1.6–3.3 per 2-ethylhexyl group and m has an average value in the range 3.0–5.5 per 2-ethylhexyl group, ~~and containing~~ wherein the alkoxyate comprises less than 1.5% by weight of unreacted 2-ethylhexanol; the said mixture being obtained by reacting 2-ethylhexanol in a first step with propylene oxide in order to obtain a propoxylated mixture, and in a second step ethoxylating the propoxylated mixture obtained with ethylene oxide.

2. (currently amended) The aAlkoxyate mixture according to ~~of~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of 2-ethylhexyl propoxylate is between 2 and 20% by weight.

3. (currently amended) The aAlkoxyate mixture according to ~~of~~ claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein n has an average value in the range 1.6–2.4 and m has an average value in the range 3.6–4.6.

4. (currently amended) The aAlkoxyate mixture of ~~according to~~ claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein ~~characterized in that~~ n has an average value in the range 1.8–2.3 and m has an average value in the range 3.6–4.6.

5. (currently amended) The Alkoxyate mixture of ~~according to~~ claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the molar ratio between ethylene oxide and propylene oxide is in the range 1.6–2.6.

6. (currently amended) Method of producing an alkoxylate mixture which comprises reacting, ~~characterized in that~~ 2-ethylhexanol is reacted with 1.6–3.3 moles of propylene oxide per mole 2-ethylhexanol in the presence of a propoxylation catalyst at a temperature from 110°C to 130°C in a first step in order to obtain a propoxylate mixture ~~where the total amount of propylene oxide is allowed to react, whereupon followed by ethoxylating the propoxylate mixture obtained, or the propoxylate mixture resulting after removal of unreacted 2-ethylhexanol, is reacted in a second step with~~ 3.0–5.5 moles of ethylene oxide per mole 2-ethylhexanol propoxylate in the presence of an ethoxylation catalyst at a temperature from 60°C to 180°C.

7. (currently amended) The mMethod according to of claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the propoxylation catalyst is an alkaline catalyst selected from the group NaOH, KOH, NaOCH<sub>3</sub> and KOCH<sub>3</sub>.

8. (currently amended) The mMethod according to of claim 6 or 7 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ethoxylation catalyst is an alkaline catalyst selected from the group NaOH, KOH, NaOCH<sub>3</sub> and KOCH<sub>3</sub> or a narrow range catalyst selected from the group Brönstedt acids, Lewis acids and Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>, and mixtures thereof.

9. (currently amended) The Method according to of claim 7 or 8, ~~characterised in that~~ the propoxylation and ethoxylation catalyst is KOCH<sub>3</sub>.

10. (currently amended) A method of cleaning a hard surface which comprises treating said surface with a cleaning effective amount of the alkoxylate mixture of claim 1 ~~Use of the alkoxylate mixture according to any of claims 1 to 5 for the cleaning of hard surfaces.~~

11. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein the total amount of propylene oxide utilized in said first step is allowed to react.

12. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein any unreacted 2-ethylhexanol is removed from the propoxylate mixture prior to ethoxylating said propoxylate mixture in said second step.